

The East Falls Historical Society

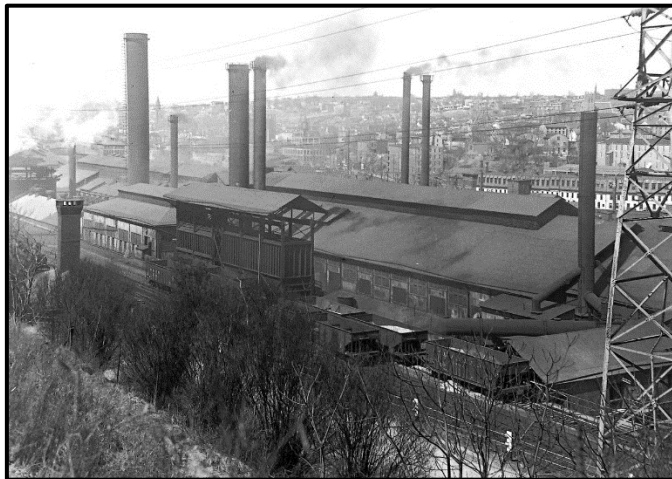
Presents

A Visit to the Iron Works at Pencoyd Landing

What do the Niagara Falls Bridge, the Chicago “L” and the main building of the Philadelphia Centennial have in common? Their steel was produced at the Pencoyd Iron Works in Bala Cynwyd. Established in 1852 as a specialty iron and steel foundry, at its peak the firm employed thousands of workers. It not only made the steel, but came to also design and build bridges all over America.

On Thursday, November 9, the East Falls Historical Society will present a program and tour of the Iron Works at Pencoyd Landing. The event will be held from 6 to 8 pm in the Residence Inn by Marriott, 615 Righters Ferry Road, Bala Cynwyd. **Registration is required;** please email to eastfallshistory.org. Then pay in cash at the door (\$10 for members of the EFHS; \$15 for non-members.)

The program will be held in the Pencoyd Room of the hotel. Doors will open at 5:30, allowing time to view many historical photographs on display. Stephen Gibson, the Chief Architect of the Penn Real Estate Group, will review the history of the Pencoyd Iron Works. The program will end with a tour of the hotel and the former office of the Iron Works.



The Pencoyd Iron Works in an historic photo

Pencoyd Iron Works has been re-imagined as a modern destination by the Penn Real Estate Group, which received a Preservation Achievement Award. The site is home to the Residence Inn by Marriott and two restaurants – The Landing Kitchen, a daytime café with indoor and outdoor seating, and Lark, located on the seventh floor. The original (1880s?) office building for the Iron Works, which may have been designed by Frank Furness, was damaged in a catastrophic fire in 1997, but

is now home to the Penn Real Estate Group, which completed an award-winning historic restoration of the interior and exterior. This

building will be included in our tour.

Although you can get to Ironworks at Pencoyd Landing from Bala Cynwyd, “the only truly spectacular arrival is from the Philadelphia side” (wrote the *Inquirer*’s Inga Saffron) by the pedestrian and automobile bridge from the parking lot at 3720 Main St. in Manayunk, near the state store and movie theater. This steel truss bridge once connected the Pencoyd main plant with some secondary buildings on the Philadelphia side.

We hope many EFHS members will take advantage of this opportunity!